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Westminster, January 17.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Sanderson, Gentleman-Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Acquainted you last Year with the Treaties of Peace and Commerce concluded between the Emperour and the King of Spain; as that sudden and unaccountable Conjunction gave, at the first Appearance, just Grounds of Jealousy and Apprehension to the neighbouring Powers of Europe, the subsequent Proceedings and Transactions in those two Courts, and the secret and offensive Alliances concluded between them about the same Time, have laid the Foundations of a most exorbitant and formidable Power, and are so directly levelled against the most valuable and darling Interests and Privileges of this Nation, that we must determine either tamely to submit to the peremptory and unjust Demands of the King of Spain, in giving up Gibraltar, and patiently to acquiesce in the Emperour's usurp'd and extended Exercise of Trade and Commerce, or must resolve to be in a Condition to do ourselves Justice, and to defend our undoubted Rights against these reciprocal Engagements entred into, in Defiance and Violation of all national Faith, and the most solemn Treaties.

I have likewise received Informations from different Parts, on which I can entirely depend, that the placing the Pretender upon the Throne of this Kingdom is one of the Articles of the secret Engagements; and, if Time shall evince, that the giving up the Trade of this Nation to one Power, and Gibraltar and Port Mahon to another, is made the Price and Reward of imposing upon this Kingdom a Popish Pretender, what an Indignation must this raise in the Breast of every Protestant Briton?

Nor were these fatal Combinations confined to those Parts of the World alone, but they extended themselves into Russia; and had not the Designs of that Court, against some of their Neighbours, been prevented by the seasonable Arrival of our Fleet in those Seas, a Way had been opened for invading these Kingdoms, and giving a powerful Assistance to any Attempt to be made from other Quarters.

Such Circumstances would not suffer Me, and My Allies, among whom there has been, and is the most perfect Harmony, Union and Concert, to be idle Spectators, and regardless of our own Safety, and the Common Cause of Europe; for which Purpose, his most Christian Majesty has been at a great Expence, this last Year, in augmenting his Forces, and the States General sensible of the imminent Danger, have not only acceeded to the Defensive Alliance concluded at Hanover, but have come to strong and seasonable Resolutions for an extraordinary Augmentation of their Forces, both by Sea and Land. The Accession of the Crown of Sweden is in such a Forwardness, and the Negociations with the Crown of Denmark are so far advanced, that we may reasonably depend upon the Success and good Effect of them.

This short View of the present Posture of Affairs, will, I am confident, not only secure to Me the Support and Assistance of my Parliament, in carrying on this great and necessary Work, in Conjunction with my Allies; but justify the Measures hitherto taken, and the Expences already made.

The Confidence you reposed in Me last Year, has been made use of for the Benefit of the Publick; and as the chief Article of Exceeding has, by My equipping and sending to Sea three considerable Squadrons, fallen upon the Head of the Navy, I am perswaded the Necessity of the Services, and the Security, Advantage and Glory that has accrued to this Nation from those Squadrons, will sufficiently speak for themselves, as long as both Friends and Foes, with Joy or Concern, confess, they have seen and felt the Effects of the Naval Power of Great Britain.

It is not to be wondred at, that the Princes ingaged in these Enterprizes are very much disturbed to see their Projects render'd abortive: The King of Spain, impatient of the Disappointments he has met with, can no longer disguise that Enmity to us, which for some Time he has only waited for a favourable Opportunity to declare: He has now ordered his Minister residing here to depart immediately from this Country, leaving a Memorial that is little short of a Declaration of War, wherein he again demands and insists upon the Restitution of Gibraltar: He does not himself deny the Offensive Alliance, nor his Engagements to support the Ostend Company: He makes My recalling those Squadrons, which his Conduct had put Me under a Necessity of sending to the West-Indies, and the Coasts of Spain, the Condition of any further Correspondence between the two Crowns; and supposing the Continuance of my Fleets abroad to be actual Hostilities, threatens to repel them with Force to the utmost of his Power.

But not content with these Menaces, Insults, and Infractions of Treaties, his Catholick Majesty is now making Preparations to attack and besiege Gibraltar; and, in order to carry on that Service, or to cover another Design, has assembled a great Body of Troops in that Neighbourhood; but as the present State and Condition of that Garrison, with the Reinforcements I have ordered thither, give Me little Cause to apprehend, or my Enemies to hope for Success in that Undertaking; the certain and undoubted Intelligence I have, that it is now resolv'd to attempt an Invasion upon these Kingdoms in Favour of the Pretender, by an Imbarkation from the Coasts of Spain, gives me Reason to believe, that tho' the Siege of Gibraltar may probably be undertaken, the publick, avow'd and immense Preparations made for that Purpose, are chiefly calculated to amuse the World, and to disguise the intended Invasion, which I am surely informed, has been for some time agreed to be the first Step and Beginning of the long premeditated Rupture.

Gentlemen

[Price Two Pence]

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

These Considerations must awaken in you all, such a Sense of our common and immediate Danger, as will, I doubt not, inspire you with a Zeal and Chearfulness in raising the Supplies, necessary for the Defence of your Country, and for making good our Engagements with our Allies. I received too much Satisfaction from the Happiness of my People, in their full Enjoyment, and future Prospect of Peace, Ease and Prosperity, not to be sensibly affected with these new Convulsions, and the unavoidable Necessity, I am under, of asking larger Supplies of my People, and of desiring to be enabled to make such an Augmentation of my Forces, by Sea and Land, as the present Exigency of Affairs requires.

I will order the proper Estimates to be laid before you, and such Treaties as I have made with foreign Princes, for the hire of foreign Troops; and as the Expence I was last Year in a particular Manner intrusted to make, has amounted to no considerable Sum, and the publick Utility may again require the like Services to be performed, I hope you will again repose the same Trust and Confidence in me.

It is with great Pleasure, that I see the Time so near approaching, when such a considerable Addition will be made to the sinking Fund; Let all that wish well to the Peace and Quiet of my Government, have the Satisfaction to see, that our present Necessities shall make no Interruption in the Progress of that desirable Work of gradually discharging the National Debt. I hope therefore you will make a Provision for the immediate Application of the Produce of the sinking Fund, to the Uses for which it was so wisely contrived, and to which it now stands appropriated.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have had no Thoughts of making any Acquisitions to any Parts of My Dominions, My whole Care and Concern has been to preserve and maintain the undoubted Rights and Privileges of My People, and therefore all My Measures have been Preventive and Defensive; but such Endeavours being now render'd Impracticable, vigorous Resolutions, and a speedy Execution of them, can alone put an effectual End to the Dangers that surround us. However hazardous and desperate the Enterprizes formed against Us may appear to be, your being assured that they are resolved upon, will, I am perswaded, be sufficient to prevail upon you to put yourselves in a Condition to resist and defeat them. If preserving a due Balance of Power in Europe, if defending the Possessions of the Crown of Great Britain, of infinite Advantage and Security to our Trade and Commerce, if supporting that Trade and Commerce against dangerous and unlawful Encroachments, and if the present Establishment, the Religion, Liberties and Properties of a Protestant People, are any longer Considerations worthy of the Care and Attention of a British Parliament, I need say no more to incite My Loyal and Faithful Houses of Parliament, to exert themselves in the Defence of all that is dear and valuable to them.

AT the Court at St. *James's*, the 16th Day of *January*, 1726-7.

PRESENT,

The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

His Majesty in Council was this Day pleased to appoint Fowke Hussey, Esq; Sheriff of the County of Stafford.

Whitehall, Jan 14.

Whereas Information upon Oath hath been given, that in pursuance of a Design formed by Williams Conyngham, Esq; several Persons did on the 20th Day of November last, about Midnight, in a riotous and tumultuous Manner, beset the Dwelling-House of Thomas Benson, Esq; in Great James-street, in the Parish of St. George the Martyr, with an Intent to carry away the Wife and divers Goods of the said Thomas Benson: His Majesty is pleased to promise His most gracious Pardon to any one of the Accomplices (except the said Williams Conyngham) who shall discover the others concerned therein, so as they may be prosecuted and convicted thereof by due Course of Law.

TOWNSHEND.

And the said Thomas Benson doth hereby promise to give a Reward of Fifty Pounds to any Person or Persons who shall apprehend the said Williams Conyngham, so that he may be brought to Justice for the said Crime.

Tho. Benson.

South-Sea-House, London, Jan. 12, 1726-7.

The Court of Directors of the South-Sea Company give Notice, That a General Court of Election will be held at the Company's House in Broad-street, London, on Wednesday the 1st of February next, from Nine in the Morning till Six in the Evening, for the Choice of Governour, Sub-Governour, and Deputy-Governour of the said Company; and the said Court will be continued by Adjournment, and held at the same Place, between the same Hours, on the Friday following, being the 3d of February next, for the Choice of Directors: Which Elections will be declared so soon as the respective Scrutinies shall be over. They likewise give Notice, that printed Lists of the Members of the said Company, qualified to Vote at the said Elections, will be ready to be delivered out at the Company's said House, ten Days before the first of the said Elections.

Charitable Corporation-House in Spring-Garden, Jan. 13, 1726-7.

The Court of Committee of the Charitable Corporation for Relief of Industrious Poor, &c. hereby give Notice, That pursuant to a Resolution of the General Court of the said Corporation held the 25th of October last, the Transfer Books will be shut from and after Saturday the 21st of January Instant, and to remain shut for Ten Days; and that each Person at the shutting the said Books intitled to any Share or Proportion in the Fund upon which the two first Payments of 1 l. 5 s. each are made, is, according to such respective Proportion, at Liberty to pay into the Fund of this Corporation the third Payment, being 1 l. 5 s. per Share on each 20 l. Share, as the Nominal Stock of this Corporation then stood divided; and that the said Payment is to be made to the Cashire, at the House in Fenchurch-street, within Six Days after the said Shutting; and that in Default of such Payment, the Committee within the next four Days are to appoint the Persons who shall pay in upon each respective Default.

The remaining fourth and last Payment is to be made thirty Days Distance from the said Third.

Advertisements.

Just Published,

*** An Enquiry into the Reasons of the Conduct of Great Britain, with Relation to the Present State of Affairs in Europe. Sold by J. Roberts in Warwick-Lane. Price One Shilling.

A Youth of about 18 Years of Age, about Five Foot Four Inches in Height, pretty thick set, round visaged, fair complexioned, has a broad Forehead, dark Eyebrows, a pretty large full Eye, staring, and of a light grey Colour, a short Bottle Nose, very full Cheeks, his Mouth of a middle Size, a short double Chin, a Mole on his left Cheek, speaks thick, and stammers much; run away from his Master on Monday the 17th of January Instant: He had on a light bob Wig, a new double-breasted Broad Cloth Suit of Cloaths of a dark brown Colour. Whoever will give Notice of him, so as he may be secured, to Mr. Meshwold, at the Tennis-Court Coffee-house at the Cockpit, Whitehall, shall have Two Guineas Reward, and reasonable Charges. And all Persons are hereby warned not to entertain him at their Peril.

JAN. 12, 1726-7. Lost out of the House of Mr. Hugh Hooper, in Rochester, in the County of Kent, a very large Silver Watch, on which was engraven (Cockey, Warminster). Whosoever gives any Information to Mr. George Pratten, Baker, in St. John-street, near Hick's-Hall, London, shall receive 10 s. Reward.

December 31, 1726.

STrayed or otherwise conveyed out of Squire Bathurst's Pasture, just by North-street Postern in York, a Sorrel Horse, about 14 Hands, four white Feet, a white Face, switch'd Tail, with a white Spot on his near Buttock, aged about seven: Also one dapple grey Gelding, a switch'd Tail, and a Splint on the far Fore-Leg, about 15 Hands high, eight Years old, pads well. Whoever can give Notice of them to Mr. Thomas Mell, or to Mr. Peter Cass, Grocer, both in York, shall have a Guinea Reward.

TO

TO be ſold before the Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt ſometime ago awarded againſt Michael Allam, on Wedneſday the 8th Day of February next, at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London, a Freehold Meſſuage or Tenement in Caſtle Yard Holbourn, commonly called or known by the Name of the Bagnio; and three Leaſehold Meſſuages or Tenements, with Coach-houſes and Stables in Great James-ſtreet, in the Pariſh of St. Andrew Holbourn, late the Eſtate of the ſaid Bankrupt. Particulars whereof may be had of Mr. William Wigholm, at his Chambers in Staple Inn, Holbourn.

WHereas a Commiſſion of Bankrupt is awarded againſt John Scattergood, late of Nottingham, Mercer, and he being declared a Bankrupt; is hereby required to ſurrender himſelf to the Commiſſioners on the 24th and 31ſt Inſtant, and on the 16th of February next, at Three in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London; at the firſt of which Sittings the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and chuſe Aſſignees. And all Perſons indebted to the ſaid Bankrupt, or that have any Goods or Effects of his in their Hands, are deſired to give Notice thereof to Mr. John Brace, Attorney, in Milk-ſtreet, Cheapſide, London.

WHereas a Commiſſion of Bankrupt is awarded againſt James Aſheton, late of the Pariſh of St. Clements Danes, in the County of Middleſex, Taylor and Chapman, and he being declared a Bankrupt; is hereby required to ſurrender himſelf to the Commiſſioners on the 20th and 27th Inſtant, and on the 16th of February next, at Three in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London; at the ſecond of which Sittings the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and chuſe Aſſignees. And all Perſons indebted to the ſaid Bankrupt, or that have any Goods or Effects of his in their Hands, are to give Notice to Mr. Lewis Allen, Attorney, in Croſs-Key-Court, in Tower-ſtreet, London.

WHereas a Commiſſion of Bankrupt is awarded againſt Joſeph Hornecaſtle, of the Pariſh of St. James Weſtminſter, in the County of Middleſex, Brewer, and he being declared a Bankrupt; is hereby required to ſurrender himſelf to the Commiſſioners on the 24th and 31ſt Inſtant, and on the 16th of February next, at Three in the Afternoon, at at Guildhall, London; at the firſt of which Sittings the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and chuſe Aſſignees. And all Perſons indebted to the ſaid Bankrupt, or that have any Goods or Effects of his in their Hands, are to give Notice to Mr. Edward Benton, Attorney, in Shire-lane, near Temple-Bar, London.

WHereas a Commiſſion of Bankrupt is awarded againſt Thomas Brooke, of London, Woollendraper, and he being declared a Bankrupt; is hereby required to ſurrender himſelf to the Commiſſioners on the 20th and 27th Inſtant, and on the 16th of February next, at Three in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London; at the ſecond of which Sittings the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and chuſe Aſſignees. And all Perſons indebted to the ſaid Bankrupt, or that have any Effects of his in their Hands, are to give Notice thereof to Meſſ. Dandy and Dyer, Attorneys, the Corner of Aldermanbury, London.

WHereas Thomas Hart, of the City of Briſtol, Diſtiller, hath ſurrendered himſelf (purſuant to Notice) and been twice examined; This is to give Notice that he will attend the Commiſſioners on the 23d Inſtant, at Ten in the Forenoon, at the King's-Head Tavern in Small-ſtreet, Briſtol, to finiſh his Examination; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and aſſent to or diſſent from the Allowance of his Certificate.

WHereas Francis Caduggan, of the City of Briſtol, Wine-Merchant, hath ſurrendered himſelf (purſuant to Notice) and been twice examined; This is to give Notice, that he will attend the Commiſſioners on the 21ſt Inſtant, at Ten in the Forenoon, at the King's-Head Tavern in Small-ſtreet, Briſtol, to finiſh his Examination; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and aſſent to or diſſent from the Allowance of his Certificate.

WHereas Henry Pyne, of the City of Briſtol, Merchant, hath ſurrendered himſelf (purſuant to Notice) and been twice examined; This is to give Notice, that he will attend the Commiſſioners on the 19th Inſtant, at Ten in the Forenoon, at the Three Tun Tavern in Corn-ſtreet, Briſtol, to finiſh his Examination; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and aſſent to or diſſent from the Allowance of his Certificate.

WHereas Robert Walton, of the Pariſh of St. Bridget alias Brides, London, Oylman, hath ſurrendred himſelf (purſuant to Notice) and been twice examined; This is to give Notice, that he will attend the Commiſſioners on the 26th Inſtant, at Three in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London, to finiſh his Examination; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their Debts, pay Contribution-Money, and object, if they think fit, againſt the Commiſſioners ſigning his Certificate in order for his Diſcharge.

THE Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt Thomas Tame, of St. Stephen Coleman-ſtreet, London, Factor, intend to meet on the 7th of February next, at Three in the Afternoon, at Guildhall, London, to make a Dividend of the ſaid Bankrupt's Eſtate; when and where the Creditors who have not already proved their Debts, and paid their Contribution-Money, are to come prepared to do the ſame, or they will be excluded the Benefit of the ſaid Dividend.

THE Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt Benjamin Sceeles, late of Manchester, in the County of Lancaſter, Shopkeeper, intend to meet on the 31ſt Inſtant, at the Houſe of Randle Jolly, being the Sign of the Red Lyon in Warrington, in the ſaid County of Lancaſter, at Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon, in order to make a Dividend of the ſaid Bankrupt's Eſtate; when and where the Creditors who have not already proved their Debts, and paid their Contribution-Money, are to come prepared to do the ſame, or they will be excluded the Benefit of the ſaid Dividend.

WHereas the acting Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt Joſeph Travers, of London, Merchant, have certified to the Right Honourable Peter Lord King, Baron of Ockham, Lord High Chancellour of Great Britain, that the ſaid Joſeph Travers hath in all Things conformed himſelf according to the Directions of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament made concerning Bankrupts; This is to give Notice, that his Certificate will be allowed and confirmed as the ſaid Acts direct, unleſs Cauſe be ſhewn to the contrary on or before the 6th of February next.

WHereas the acting Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt Richard Croft, near Charing-Croſs, in the County of Middleſex, Vintner, have certified to the Right Honourable Peter Lord King, Baron of Ockham, Lord High Chancellour of Great Britain, that the ſaid Richard Croft hath in all Things conformed himſelf according to the Directions of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament made concerning Bankrupts; This is to give Notice, that his Certificate will be allowed and confirmed as the ſaid Acts direct, unleſs Cauſe be ſhewn to the contrary on or before the 6th of February next.

WHereas the acting Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt Nathaniel Harding, Jun. of Southwark, in the County of Surrey, Baker, have certified to the Right Honourable Peter Lord King, Baron of Ockham, Lord High Chancellour of Great Britain, that the ſaid Nathaniel Harding, Jun. hath in all Things conformed himſelf according to the Directions of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament made concerning Bankrupts; This is to give Notice, that his Certificate will be allowed and confirmed as the ſaid Acts direct, unleſs Cauſe be ſhewn to the contrary on or before the 6th of February next.

WHereas the acting Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt John Mitchell, of Holbourn, in the County of Middleſex, Dealer in Millinary Wares, have certified to the Right Honourable Peter Lord King, Baron of Ockham, Lord High Chancellour of Great Britain, that the ſaid John Mitchell hath in all Things conformed himſelf according to the Directions of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament made concerning Bankrupts; This is to give Notice, that his Certificate will be allowed and confirmed as the ſaid Acts direct, unleſs Cauſe be ſhewn to the contrary on or before the 6th of February next.

WHereas the acting Commiſſioners in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt Jonathan Raven, of Thames-ſtreet, London, Victualler, have certified to the Right Honourable Peter Lord King, Baron of Ockham, Lord High Chancellour of Great Britain, that the ſaid Jonathan Raven hath in all Things conformed himſelf according to the Directions of the ſeveral Acts of Parliament made concerning Bankrupts; This is to give Notice, that his Certificate will be allowed and confirmed as the ſaid Acts direct, unleſs Cauſe be ſhewn to the contrary on or before the 6th of February next.

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